

Handout – The Way I Work - Then and Now

14th Australian Computer Conference for Seniors

Your family history begins with YOU - Work back generation by generation documenting each link.

Basically family history involves:

- Collecting information - certificates, documents, newspaper clippings, letters, photos, stories and memorabilia
- Organising what you have collected
- Recording the family links
- Documenting the family links
- Sharing what you have collected

This concept has not changed but the way we collect, organise, record, document and share has

Types of online microform

There are two types of online microform:

- Microform that has been indexed and linked to searchable databases with the original record images available such as on Ancestry.com and FindmyPast
- 'Online' microfilm that is not linked to a searchable database. You have to scroll through the images as if using a microfilm reel. Indexes may be available and need to be accessed separately

www.findmypast.com.au

Findmypast - a commercial family history site with a vast collection of indexed original records.

www.ancestry.com.au

Ancestry.com - a commercial family history site with a vast collection of indexed original records.

www.records.nsw.gov.au

State Records is the NSW Government's archives and records management authority. There is free access to online microfilm of shipping lists 1828-1896.

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

The National Archives, UK government's official archive. Offers access to 90+ online microfilm covering army, navy, air force records, war diaries, convict records, coastguard records, wills and much more. Use this link for access www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/digital-microfilm.htm

www.familysearch.org

FamilySearch is the family history site of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It offers free access to the world's largest family history collection. There are 1309+ collections available with access to online original records. Some are indexed and linked. Others are 'Browse Images' only.

Newspapers

trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper

Trove Digitised Newspapers offers free access to the full text of 336+ Australian newspaper titles from 1803 to 1954 (some later).

TIP: Use phrase searching - "John William Lee". The speech marks holds two, or more, words together during the search. Consider alternatives "John Lee", "John W Lee", "J W Lee", "Jno Lee", "Mr J Lee" or "Lee John William"

www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

The British Newspaper Archive currently has 204+ titles 1700-1950. This archive is available for free, onsite, at some state, public and family history libraries. Check what might be available onsite at a library near you.



Free home access to subscription databases

Major libraries subscribe to a wide variety of subscription databases and make them available online for free as eResources. These include:

- Books, eBooks, academic and popular journals, magazines, encyclopaedias, dictionaries, newspapers, business and legal resources
- Historic material - books (c16th+), directories, journals, periodicals, parliamentary papers, newspapers and much more

www.nla.gov.au/app/eresources/

The National Library of Australia eResources page offers home access to 110+ subscription databases. This free service is available to all residents of Australia. You need a National Library card and you can apply online. The card will be mailed to you within 5-10 working days. You then use the number on the card and your surname to login using the black box, top right of screen. Click on *Licensed resources* (yellow keys icon) to access an alphabetical list of available databases.

www2.sl.nsw.gov.au/eresources/

State Library New South Wales eResources offers free home access to 135+ databases. New South Wales residents can register as a State Library client online. A library card will be mailed to you within 10 days. You then use this card to access the databases from home.

The various state and territory libraries also offer free home access to residents of that state. The resources offered vary and often include material relevant to that state.

www.irishnewsarchive.com

Irish Newspaper Archives offers access to the full text of 28+ newspaper titles from 1763 to current. Access this archive from home for free using the National Library of Australia's eResources link. It is also available to residents of Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia from their state library.

Free family history software programs

Family history programs offer:

- Easy-to-use tools for organising, documenting and linking people together
- Storage for documents, photos, audio and video
- Comprehensive reports, charts and publishing options (including websites)

The free versions of the following family history programs offer fully functional versions that contain the core features of the original program with no strings attached. Extra features such as GPS mapping, wall charts, DNA recording and more are available if you upgrade to the full version (around \$30).

www.ancquest.com

Ancestral Quest is a full featured program. The Ancestral Quest Basics version is free to download.

www.legacyfamilytree.com

Legacy Family Tree. A full version of the standard edition can be downloaded free of charge.

www.rootsmagic.com

Roots Magic is a full featured program. RootsMagic Essentials is the free version.

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Take digital photos of:

- Images on microform readers
- Pages from books
- Cemetery headstones
- Buildings and home interiors
- Old photographs held by someone you visit
- Items too big, fragile or precious to scan
- Family heirlooms of significance. These can include:
 - Quilts, silverware, china, glassware, jewellery, trophies, artworks, vehicles, clothing, hats, toys, medals and others

Use digital photos to share unique family heirlooms with other members of the family.

Cloud Storage

Cloud Storage is online storage and is a great additional backup for your data. It also allows you to access data across multiple devices. There are free and paid services available.

skydrive.live.com

SkyDrive - 7 GB free storage

www.box.com

Box - 5 GB free storage

drive.google.com

Google Drive - 5 GB free storage

Research in the digital age

familysearch.org/techtips/

TechTips by FamilySearch offers lots of technology tips and is a great site to learn and to stay up to date. There is advice on buying scanners, cameras, computers, GPS, mobiles, printers and storage devices suitable to use for family history research plus details of Mac apps, phone apps and others.

www.telgen.co.uk/families/

The Families app by TelGen works in conjunction with the Legacy Family Tree. Transfer Legacy files from PC to iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad or Android. Files can be viewed and edited wherever you are.

office.microsoft.com/en-us/onenote/

Microsoft OneNote is designed for free-form information gathering. It can gather notes (handwritten or typed), drawings, photos, PDF files, screen clips, video and audio. OneNote can replace multiple physical notebooks, binders and paper notes with a single, searchable, tabbed and subdivided master notebook that is easily synced across devices.

evernote.com

Evernote lets you take notes, sync files across your devices, save webpages and share. Evernote Web Clipper allows you to, with one click, clip part or all of any webpage, including text, images and links.

TIP: OneNote notebooks can be easily imported into Evernote which has great syncing capabilities.